



CARTER COURIER

JULY 11, 2006

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

I hope each of you had a safe and patriotic 4th of July. I was pleased to commemorate the holiday by participating in the Round Rock and Coryell County parades. It was great to see so many Central Texans out waving their American flags, showing their support for our nation and our troops.

I wanted to let you know that I have a new website with a number of exciting features, including a poll, blog, video clips, constituent services, legislative information, and much more!

This week's poll question is:

What is the most important issue currently facing Congress?

Currently, Immigration and Border Security is leading the poll.

Cast your vote by visiting me on the web at <http://carter.house.gov>.

Until next week,

CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S FREEDOM

On July 4, 2006, we celebrated the 230th anniversary of our nation's independence. Our nation has grown significantly and accomplished quite a bit since 1776. When we claimed our independence from Great Britain and formed the United States we were a mere nation comprised of 13 colonies and 2.5 million Americans.

The founding fathers battled against tyranny in the name of freedom. The Revolutionary War lasted six years from beginning to end, and came at a great cost to the early Americans. However, the courage and perseverance of the colonies resulted in victory.

More than two centuries later, our military still bravely defends our liberty. And we continue to enjoy living in freedom because of the daily sacrifices made by the courageous men and women of the United States armed services. Independence Day gives us the opportunity to honor our veterans and the current generation of our military, which is answering the call to defend our freedom and to bring freedom to others.

Currently thousands of our brave service men and women are helping Iraq stand up as a free and democratic nation. The recent death of Al-Zarqawi exemplifies the dedication of our American troops in providing the tools for the Iraqi people to establish a united, free, and sovereign Iraq.

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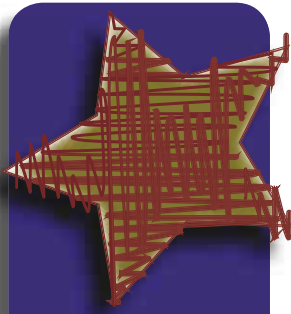
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I was particularly proud to hear that the 4th Infantry Division was the first of the U.S. forces on the ground following the attack on Al-Zarqawi. When I visited the 4th ID in Iraq in April, many soldiers shared with pride stories about their efforts to support the Iraqis. They are doing an excellent job.

I applaud the Iraqi forces and American troops for their tireless efforts and ultimate success in seeing this relentless murderer put to death. Zarqawi was the most wanted terrorist in Iraq--directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people. While violence is expected to continue, this is a significant blow to the Al Qaeda network and terrorists. This is an important milestone for the mission in Iraq, and our service men and women should be applauded for yet another success in fighting the War on Terrorism.

The death of Al-Zarqawi is not the only evidence of success and progress in Iraq. The completion of the new Iraqi government is an important step. The dedication of our American troops in providing the tools for the Iraqi people to establish a united, free, and sovereign Iraq must be recognized and applauded.

Funding our defense priorities is essential to keeping our soldiers protected and our nation secure. I was proud to support the recently passed Department of Defense Appropriations bill, which includes significant funding for critical defense priorities. This important piece of legislation includes a 2.2 percent military pay raise effective January 1, 2007; provides \$1.5 billion for improvised explosive device countermeasures; and an additional \$725 million for personnel force protection items, including body armor.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our service men and women for their courage, commitment, and sacrifice on behalf of our freedom. I feel honored to represent Fort Hood and thousands of our brave soldiers and their families. And I continue to support our troops and their unwavering commitment to eliminating terrorists and advancing freedom and democracy. It is because of each and every one of our service members that we can continue to celebrate Independence Day.

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO EXPAND OFF-SHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION Includes Environment Safeguards, Gives Production Authority to the States

I was pleased co-sponsored legislation that passed the House that will allow the U.S. to increase the production of energy on the outer-continental shelf (OCS). H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act, gives coastal states permanent power to prohibit energy production within 100 miles of their coastline, while allowing the United States to authorize energy exploration between 100 and 200 miles off states' coastlines.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation that helps address America's long-term energy needs. Allowing for the exploration of the vast energy resources in the outer-continental shelf will allow our country to become more energy self-sufficient. There are a number of economic benefits that result from increased domestic energy production, including lower fuel prices, additional jobs, and greater security.

Texas and other states that may choose to produce energy in the deep seas off their coasts will benefit financially under the DOER Act. The bill allows producing states to split all revenues with the federal government. The states and local communities will be able to use these funds for a number of purposes, including: education, transportation, lower taxes, energy efficiency and conservation, or other purposes the state determine.

The DOER Act eliminates outdated federal regulations imposing a blanket prohibition on deep sea energy production. The bill gives decision-making power to the states, allowing them to choose whether or not to allow exploration off their coasts. Further, the bill prohibits any production within 50 miles of shore but gives states authority to allow energy production between 50 and 100 miles off their shores.

Any energy exploration resulting from this bill would be conducted under stringent environmental regulations to protect and enhance our natural resources. The bill would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and preserve hundreds of thousands of others.

CARTER SUPPORTS LAW ENFORCEMENT SPENDING BILL Also Funds Border Security, Competitiveness Initiative

I recently voted in favor of a bill that will provide funding for border security, the growing problem of methamphetamine abuse, and increasing the competitiveness of the U.S. The House passed H.R. 5672, the Departments of Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007, which funds federal agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Small Business Administration, and the National Science Foundation.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I remain committed to ensuring that our nation's law enforcement needs are adequately funded. In addition to other initiatives



to fight crime, this bill provides the resources needed to battle the methamphetamine epidemic in our nation. I am pleased that this bill also provides increased funding for small business loans, giving America's entrepreneurs the assistance to succeed. Further, we have included funds for American Competitiveness programs which are vital to ensuring our nation's success in the sciences in the 21st Century.

Specifically, this appropriations bill includes: \$1.1 billion for a State Department border security program to catch fraudulent visas using advanced technological equipment; \$6.0 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide for counterterrorism infrastructure needs and combat crimes like gang violence and child exploitation; \$1.75 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration to fight meth abuse and drug-related violence and strengthen intelligence capabilities; \$643 million for the Small Business Administration, including record funding for loans to American entrepreneurs; and \$16.7 billion for NASA to fund space exploration, space science, and aeronautics research.

CARTER SUPPORTS FREEDOM TO DISPLAY AMERICAN FLAG

I was pleased supported a bill that will allow individuals and families to display the American flag on their residential property. The House recently passed HR 42, the Freedom to Display the American Flag Act, which will keep condo and homeowner associations from preventing residents from displaying the American flag.

Guaranteeing that Americans have the right to display the flag at their home is just commonsense. The American flag stands for the freedom that our forefathers fought to secure and our military has continued to defend. As we honor our nation's independence, it is important that we continue to protect the rights of all Americans to display the symbol of that freedom.

CARTER STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT DECISION

The Supreme Court recently cast its decision on the Texas redistricting case. The Supreme Court ruling is a huge victory for the people of Texas as well as the Republican Party. We won on every major point of contention.

This decision exonerates the Republicans of any wrongdoing. The Majority Opinion was that the current district map is a fair plan. In short, the Supreme Court ruled that the new map is an improvement over the old gerrymandered map that was drafted by Democrats.

The only slight caveat to this victory is that the Supreme Court felt the Hispanic population in District 25 was not sufficiently compact and therefore not an acceptable majority-minority replacement for District 23.

At this point, it is unclear what action the three Judge panel will take in terms of a remedy. I do not expect a remedy to affect me or the other Districts surrounding mine in Central Texas. I believe, however, that the court should allow the Texas legislature to exercise its constitutional authority in coming up with any necessary remedy.

NEW & REMINDER COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Congressman Carter's *staff* will hold community office hours at the following time and location. The staff will be able to meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with regard to federal issues and federal agencies.

FRIDAY, JULY 14th

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Cameron

Bea's Kitchen

101 East Main St.

Cameron, Texas

TUESDAY, JULY 25th

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Copperas Cove

Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

204 E. Robertson Avenue

Copperas Cove, Texas

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26th

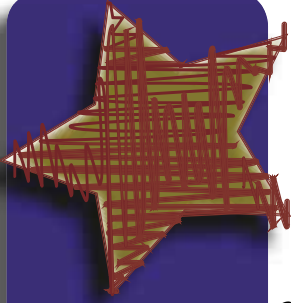
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Marlin

Marlin City Hall Council Chambers

101 Fortune Street

Marlin, Texas



Kids' Page

SUMMER FUN & SAFETY TIPS

Summer “Hot” Spots

**Swimming Pool*

**Amusement Park*

**Lake or the Beach*

**Park*

**Playground*

**Shopping Mall*

Safety Tips

*****When you're out riding a bicycle, rollerblading, or skateboarding, make sure to strap on your protective gear and padding: remember that a helmet can save your life!***

*****Be sure to wear sunscreen when playing outside, especially during the afternoon hours or when you're by a pool.***

*****Remember to wear a life jacket if you go into the water.***

*****When going to play outside, try to take a friend with you: it's safer and more fun.***

*****Don't take a ride with any strangers. Be sure to check with your parents before getting into a car with an adult.***

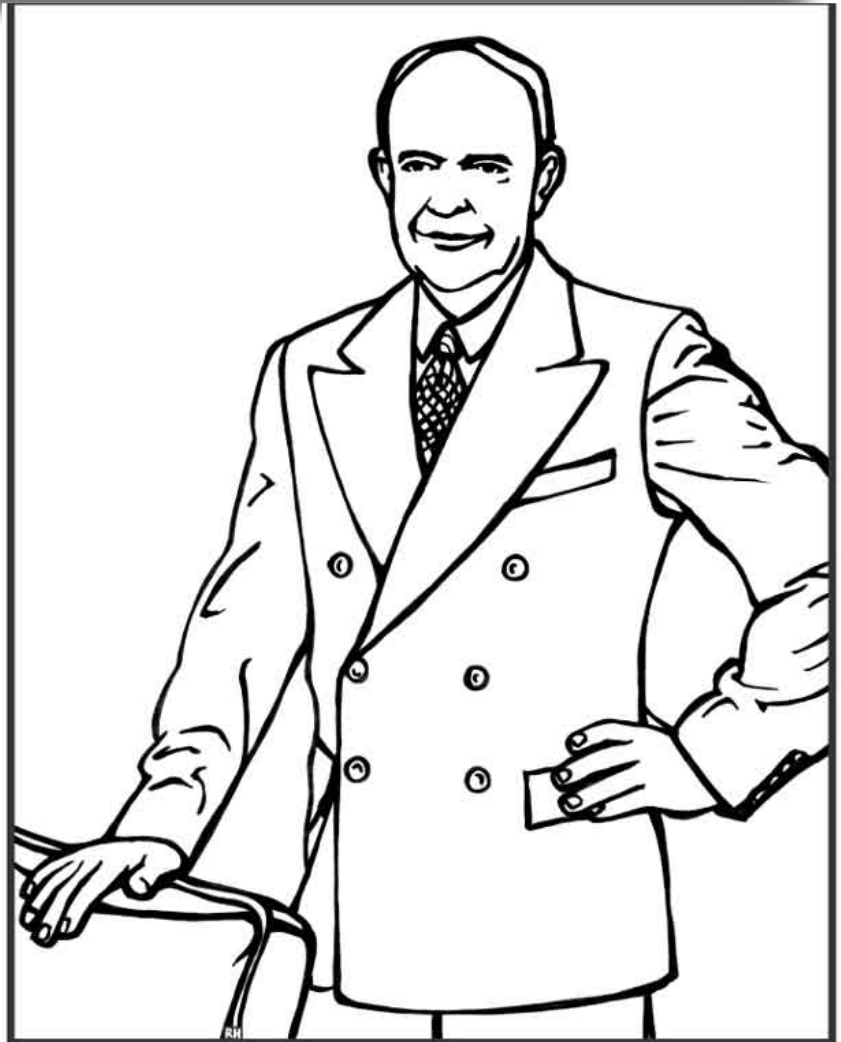
*****Make sure to drink plenty of water, especially during the afternoon.***

*****If you ever begin to feel dizzy or get a headache while playing outside, go inside and cool off immediately.***

*****Wear a seat belt whenever traveling in a car.***



Color the President



Dwight D. Eisenhower

Presidential Number: 34th

Years he was President: 1953-1961

State Represented: New York

Party Affiliation: Republican

Fact(s): He was the first president to ride in a helicopter while president.

Personal

Birthday: October 14, 1890

How old would he be this year? 116

School(s) attended: United States

Military Academy, West Point,

Command and General Staff School,

Army War College

Wife: Mamie Eisenhower

Occupation(s) before he was President: Army Officer

Other way(s) he served: Five Star General in World War II, Supreme Allied Commander

Height: 5 feet, 10.5 inches

Favorite Foods: Vegetable soup, steak

Hobbies or Sports: Bridge, fishing, golf, painting

Life in America

How would he have traveled? Helicopter, airplane, car

How would he have communicated with his friends? Telephone, typed letter

U.S. Population when term began: 151,325,798

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 50